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12 Oct 55

1. USSR asks Nasr's views on Sudanese request for Soviet arms:  
Soviet ambassador Solod asked Egyptian premier Nasr on 5 October what he wished the USSR to do about a Sudanese request to purchase "a quantity of small arms," according to a reliable source close to Nasr. Solod stated that the Soviet government would never act in a matter of interest to Egypt without consulting Nasr.

According to the source, Nasr was acutely embarrassed by this approach, but understood that the Soviet motive was to give him a false sense of confidence in Soviet intentions toward Egypt. However, he contrasted the Soviet intention to defer to his wishes and the American engineering of the Turkish-Iraqi pact without even consulting Egypt. [REDACTED] 10 Oct 55)

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Comment: Soviet deference to Nasr illustrates Moscow's eagerness to gain the Egyptian leader's confidence and to avoid antagonizing him.

With the withdrawal of Anglo-Egyptian forces, the Sudan faces the problem of creating and equipping a defense force. The Sudanese are seeking arms from several sources, and may be attracted by the possibility of highly favorable terms from the Soviet bloc.

During the past year, Soviet bloc countries, particularly Czechoslovakia, have demonstrated considerable interest in expanding their relations with the Sudan.